

## This Week in Washington

### Paperwork relief approved by House

Congressman Richard Pombo this week supported legislation that will streamline the Federal paperwork process and make it easier for small business owners and family farmers to meet their regulatory burdens. The Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002 (H.R. 327), passed unanimously by a 418-0 margin.

"Small businesses and family farms spend too much time and money meeting government red tape requirements," Pombo stated. "By streamlining the process, we are giving small business owners and family farmers the freedom to devote more time to concentrate on real business, or spend more time with their families."

HR 327 amends the 1995 Paperwork Reduction Act and includes the following:

- Requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to publish an annual list of paperwork assistance resources available to small businesses;
- Requires each Federal agency to create a single point of contact to answer questions posed by business owners who need help with Federal paperwork;
- Establishes a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining reporting requirements; and
- Requires two annual reports from each agency on enforcement actions taken, and civil penalties assessed against small businesses.

According to the latest figures by the SBA, regulatory burdens and paperwork requirements cost small business owners a staggering \$6,975 per employee. OMB estimates that small businesses devote 7.7 billion man-hours and \$230 billion each year to meet Federal paperwork and regulatory burdens.

### Pombo Supports Small Airport Safety Bill

Congressman Richard Pombo yesterday voted for increased security at our nation's small airports. The bill, H.R. 1979, would increase Airport Improvement Program (AIP) appropriations for much of their improvement and expansion plans. The Small Airport Safety, Security and Air Service Improvement Act of 2002 was approved by a vote of 284-143.

Specifically, H.R. 1979 would:

- Allow AIP funds to be used to construct FAA contract control towers.
- Enhance air traffic safety by adding additional FAA contract towers in smaller Communities to the national aviation system.
- Allow airports to purchase tower equipment.
- Allow airports to build a FAA contract tower at a savings to the taxpayer.
- Help decrease flight delays by increasing the number of reliever airports.

"It's important that our smaller airports, including Stockton Metropolitan Airport, are every bit as secure as the larger airports in Sacramento and San Francisco," Pombo stated. "The legislation is an important first step in making that happen."

### House panel OKs bill to arm pilots

This week lawmakers endorsed legislation that could arm more than 1,000 pilots in the next two years.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers on the aviation subcommittee worked out a compromise that would set up a two-year test program. During that period, up to 1,400 pilots could volunteer to undergo training and obtain permission to carry guns on board an airplane they are piloting. Priority would be given to pilots with military or law enforcement backgrounds. Flight attendants would get separate self-defense training.

The bill is to come before the full House Transportation Committee next week.

*Reprinted from the Associated Press*

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### Today in History

**1788** - The U.S. Constitution went into effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

**1938** - In Washington, U.S. President Roosevelt signed the \$3.75 billion Emergency Relief Appropriation Act.

**1939** - Lou Gehrig quit baseball due to illness.

**1940** - Richard M. Nixon and Thelma Catherine 'Pat' Ryan were married.

**1958** - In Arkansas, a federal judge let Little Rock delay school integration.

**1964** - Three civil rights workers disappeared in Philadelphia, MS. Their bodies were found on August 4th, 1964 in an earthen dam. Eight Ku Klux Klan members later went to federal prison on conspiracy charges.

**1981** - Donald Fagan and Walter Becker announced the break-up of Steely Dan.

**1981** - "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was released in theaters.

**1982** - A jury in Washington, DC, found John Hinckley Jr. innocent by reason of insanity in the shootings of U.S. President Reagan and three other men.

**1985** - Scientists announced that skeletal remains exhumed in Brazil were those of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele.

**1989** - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

*From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)*

## This Week in Washington cont.

### Have you seen me?

**Members Doing Their Part.** With the media paying close attention to the case of the missing girl in Utah, Elizabeth Smart, Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) and several of his colleagues are trying to do their part to help find missing children in their own districts.

Pombo is one of several Members who has started featuring photos of missing children on the official envelopes that leave his office. The photos used by Pombo's office, provided through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will feature three girls from his district.

Since he sends out thousands of pieces of official mail each month, Pombo is hoping it will make a difference. "There are a lot of children missing throughout the country," spokesman Doug Heye told HOH. "This is one more outlet to get their names and pictures out there."

*Reprinted from Roll Call*

### EPA says toxic sludge is good for fish

The Army Corps of Engineers' dumping of toxic sludge into the Potomac River protects fish by forcing them to flee the polluted area and escape fishermen, according to an internal Environmental Protection Agency document.

The document says it is not a "ridiculous possibility" that a discharge "actually protects the fish in that they are not inclined to bite (and get eaten by humans) but they go ahead with their upstream movement and egg laying."

"To suggest that toxic sludge is good for fish because it prevents them from being caught by man is like suggesting that we club baby seals to death to prevent them from being eaten by sharks. It's ludicrous," said Rep. George Radanovich, R-CA.

A spokesman for the EPA was not available to comment on the document, which was included in the administrative record. The federal agency used that information to allow the dumpings through the C&O Canal National Park and into the Potomac, a designated American Heritage river.

The Corps dumps 200,000 tons of "toxic sludge" into the river every year in violation of the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, according to the House committee.

*Reprinted from the Washington Post*

### Weekly Quote

"EPA does not believe toxic sludge is good for fish."

- U.S. EPA deputy assistant administrator for water  
**Benjamin H. Grumbles**

### Wordsmith

#### stream-line

**Pronunciation:** 'strEm-"lIn

**Function:** noun

**Date:** 1868

1 : the path of a particle in a fluid relative to a solid body past which the fluid is moving in smooth flow without turbulence

2 a : a contour designed to minimize resistance to motion through a fluid (as air) b : a smooth or flowing line designed as if for decreasing air resistance

*Reprinted from m-w.com*

### By the Numbers

More registered voters would rather spend their summer vacation with George W. Bush than with Bill Clinton, a new Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll suggests.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents said they plan to travel this summer. Pollsters asked them if they would rather spend their vacation with Bush or Clinton. Forty-four percent chose the current president, while 26 percent preferred his predecessor. Forty-eight percent of women and 39 percent of men chose Bush, and 26 percent of both genders selected Clinton.

*Conducted 6/4-5/02; surveyed 900 registered voters; margin of error +/-3%*

## Comments from the District

"Have the contents of 100% of these containers been inspected for terrorists or for contraband such as chemical or biological weapons, and especially nuclear devices?" - **Randy Hall** - 6/19/02

"American soldiers have laid their lives in the line since 1996 to protect Islamic populations in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo and do so to this day." - **Michael Horn** - 6/19/02

"My entire family is also supporting you in the impeachment procedures of Judge Shira Scheindlin." - **Patrick Backman** - 6/7/02

"I strongly urge you to actively oppose HR 4660, S. 2452 (if it should come before the House), and any and all similar bills intended to establish a cabinet Level Department of Homeland Security." - **Roger Blain** - 6/8/02

*You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here: <http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2002/board2002.htm>*